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Mexico Narcotics

~~EX-POLICEMAN CONVICTED OF TRAFFICKING STILL AT LARGE~~

Escape From Hospital

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 19 Nov 84 Sec A p 8

[Text] At about 2100 hours, Roberto Fuentes Zertuche, a former policeman sentenced to prison for crimes against health, escaped from a cell-room at the Civil Hospital.

Taking advantage of the carelessness of the policeman on guard, the convict fled, leaving by the main door and slipping away in the dark of night, while the alarm was sounded to the various agencies in the town which, as of the time that this edition was closed, were still combing the area in search of the escapee.

Fuentes Zertuche was confined in the hospital because, according to doctors' reports, he was suffering from a severe infection in one ear; which prompted the warden, Moctezuma Rodriguez Meza, to order his confinement in the hospital.

He was accompanied in the cells by two other convicts, Manuel Enriquez Garcia and Roberto Rosales Moreno, alias "El Perro," who decided not to follow him in his venture.

The convict was jailed on the basis of a federal verdict, for drug trafficking, in the case wherein the leading accused was Leandro Martinez, with a long criminal record.

Possible Accomplices

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 23 Nov 84 Sec B p 5

[Text] The agency of the Federal Public Ministry (third investigator) is continuing the probe to find out who was implicated in the escape of the drug trafficker and former uniformed policeman, Roberto Fuentes Zertuche.

This individual fled from the Civil Hospital where he was confined in the cell-room, being prepared for an operation on a tumor discovered in one ear.

But the Federal Judicial Police are searching for a taxi driver who it is thought aided Fuentes Zertuche in escaping from his detention; this being the opinion of the third agency of the Public Ministry.

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At noon yesterday, Fuentes Zertuche's wife, Maria Dolores Garcia Castaneda, who was also arrested, as was her sister, Hilda Garcia, appeared to make a statement.

According to the Federal Judicial Police, this woman had stated that they intended to help Fuentes Zertuche to escape, but at the agency of the Public Ministry she denied that story, claiming that the federal police wrote whatever they wanted in a record that they submitted to the prosecutor.

She revealed that she had heard something, but claimed that she had never taken part in her husband's escape, because it was very difficult for her to reach him.

At noon yesterday, the secretary went to take the statement of Roberto Rosales Moreno, known as "El Perro," who is confined in the cell-room of the Civil Hospital because he has leprosy.

It is said that this individual had a key to the padlock with which they locked the cell and that, while the policeman, Moises de Andar Sola, was responding to a request from a doctor who called him to the floor below, the trafficker escaped.

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